

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 08166 180830Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----180832Z 057721 /23

O P 180826Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4000  
INFO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY  
USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

S E C R E T LONDON 08166

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS SECDEF WASHDC, USNMR SHAPE, USCINCEUR

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PARM, NATO  
SUBJECT: MBFR: GERMAN DATA PROPOSAL

REF: USNATO 3421

1. WE SPOKE MAY 17 WITH PATRICK MOBERLY, ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY IN THE FCO, ABOUT BRITISH REACTION TO GERMAN DATA PROPOSAL. MOBERLY CONFIRMED AS STATED REFTEL THAT UK HAS NO ENTHUSIASM FOR IDEA OF AN UNCLASSIFIED PUBLICATION. THAT STEP, MOBERLY SAID, WOULD BE UNSATISFACTORY BECAUSE IT COULD NOT BE PLAUSIBLY EXPLAINED TO THE EAST.
2. MOBERLY ALSO NOTED THAT THE FRG WAS STILL CONCERNED ABOUT AGREEING TO NATIONAL DESIGNATION OF MAJOR UNITS AND BREAKDOWN OF REMAINING FORCES INTO NATIONALLY DESIGNATED COMPONENTS. THE BRITISH HAD GOTTEN THE WORD THAT RUTH WAS INCREASINGLY WORRIED THAT THIS WOULD TRANSPARENTLY RESULT IN TABLING OF NATIONAL TOTALS BY  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LONDON 08166 180830Z

ANOTHER NAME. MOBERLY CONTINUED THAT ALTHOUGH BRITISH DO NOT AGREE WITH GERMANS, ALLIES MAY BE FORCED BY FRG INTRANSIGENCE TO LOOK FOR OTHER KINDS OF DIS-AGGREGATION CLUES TO GIVE TO THE EAST.

3. MOBERLY CONCLUDED THAT BRITISH BELIEVE THAT DIS-AGGREGATION SHOULD PROCEED ONLY THROUGH CORPS LEVEL.

IF DIVISIONS WERE INCLUDED, THIS WOULD ONLY INCREASE  
THE LIKELIHOOD OF SOVIET REJECTION OF THE WHOLE  
EXERCISE.

4. COMMENT: IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT FCO IS NOW  
RESPONDING TO EVOLVING GERMAN DATA PROPOSAL WITH MARKED  
CYNICISM. THE BRITISH ARE PERFECTLY AWARE THAT WITHOUT  
NATIONAL DESIGNATIONS, THE FRG IDEA HAS LITTLE OR NO  
CHANCE OF SUCCESS. OUR GUESS IS THAT THE UK HAS DECI-  
DED TO PUSH THE GERMANS A BIT AND THEN ALLOW FRG TO  
SHAPE ITS PROPOSAL PRETTY MUCH AS IT WISHES AND GET ON  
WITH EXPEDITIOUSLY PRESENTING IT TO THE EAST. IF THE  
INITIATIVE SUCCEEDS SO MUCH THE BETTER. IF IT IS  
REJECTED AND WHEN IT THUS BECOMES CLEAR THAT THIS  
PARTICULAR ALLIED EMPEROR IS WEARING TOO FEW CLOTHES  
TO SUIT THE SOVIETS, HMG MAY HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE  
TO PERSUADE THE GERMANS TO TAKE THE LOGICAL NEXT STEP--  
TABLING OF NATIONAL TOTALS.

SPIERS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF WASHDC,USNMR SHAPE, USCINCEUR

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009